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PM THE SITUATION ROOM TOHAK 193
TO RODMAN/LORD FOR DR. KISSINGER
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T O P S E C R E T SENSITIVE CONTAINS CODEWORD WH30551

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FEBRUARY 15, 1973
CONTAINS CODEWORD

NSA review completed

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. KISSINGER

FROM: THE SITUATION ROOM

SUBJECT: EVENING NOTES

25X1

LAOS RIGHTIST ELEMENTS CONCERNED ABOUT NEW PROPOSAL: THERE IS CONSIDERABLE CONSTERNATION AMONG RIGHTIST ELEMENTS IN VIENTIANE FOLLOWING SOUVANNA'S REVELATION AT HIS CABINET MEETING YESTERDAY THAT HE IS WILLING TO ACCEPT A PATHET LAO PROPOSAL THAT THE PORTFOLIOS IN A NEW GOVERNMENT BE EQUALLY DIVIDED BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES IF THE COMMUNISTS ACCEPT HIM AS ITS HEAD. TEMPER'S RAN HIGH AT A RIGHTIST MEETING. ONE CABINET MEMBER, WHO IS A RELATIVE OF THE LAO ARMY DEPUTY COMMANDER, SAID THAT THE MILITARY LEADERS DO NOT APPROVE SUCH A CONCESSION. AS YET, THE RIGHTISTS HAVE NOT SAID WHAT THEY MIGHT DO IF THE PRIME MINISTER IGNORES THEIR OBJECTIONS. BEFORE THE RIGHTISTS MET, SOUVANNA HAS ALREADY AGREED TO A RIGHTIST PROPOSAL TO POSTPONE FINAL DECISION ON THE MATTER UNTIL HE CONSULTS WITH U.S. OFFICIALS. THE RIGHTISTS ALMOST CERTAINLY REALIZE THAT THEY COULD NOT HOPE TO SUCCESSFULLY UPSET SOUVANNA'S PLANS IF HE OBTAINS STRONG U.S. BACKING.

MORI/CDF C03360287

SOUTH VIETNAM POLITICAL SITUATION: PRESIDENT THIEU

HOPES TO GET THE VIET CONG TO AGREE TO A PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION AT THE EARLIEST DATE, PREFERABLY WITHIN THREE TO SIX MONTHS. THIEU ADDED THAT HE PROBABLY WOULD HAVE TO AGREE TO VIET CONG DEMANDS FOR THE ELECTION OF A CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY. HE ASSERTED, HOWEVER, THAT BEFORE HE WOULD ALLOW ANY KIND OF ELECTION, NORTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS WOULD HAVE TO WITHDRAW FROM THE SOUTH.

CIA COMMENTS THAT THIS IS ANOTHER INDICATION THAT THIEU THINKS HE MAY HAVE SOMETHING TO GAIN BY APPEARING FORTHCOMING ON THE

TOP SECRET-SENSITIVE
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TOP SECRETTOP SECRET-SENSITIVE
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-2-

IDEA OF ELECTIONS. HE PROBABLY EXPECTS THE COMMUNISTS WILL NOT ACCEPT HIS PROPOSALS AND IN ANY CASE, HAS LEFT HIMSELF AN "OUT" IN HIS DEMAND THAT NORTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS MUST FIRST WITHDRAW.

MOSCOW STAKES OUT ITS NORTH VIETNAM CLAIM: WRITING IN THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, PAUL WOHL ENTITLES HIS ARTICLE, "KISSINGER'S HANOI EXPLORING IRKS KREMLIN." WOHL INDICATES THAT THE KREMLIN IS DISTURBED BY YOUR JOURNEY TO HANOI AND BY THE POLITICAL EFFECT OF THE SOVIET UNION'S HAVING EARLIER, IN EFFECT, YIELDED TO AMERICAN PRESSURE IN VIETNAM. WOHL BASES HIS THOUGHTS ON A TIGHTLY REASONED ARTICLE IN IZVESTIA OF FEBRUARY 6, WHERE THE KREMLIN INDICATED IT DID NOT WANT THE U.S. TO HELP IN RECONSTRUCTION OF NORTH VIETNAM AND FOR THE U.S. TO FOLLOW A "HANDS OFF SOUTHEAST ASIA" POLICY. MOSCOW HAS APPARENTLY SET ITSELF UP AS A PREORDAINED LEADER AGAINST IMPERIALISM AND WARNS HANOI AGAINST BIG MONOPOLIST AND IMPERIALIST POWERS. IT SEEMS THAT THE SOVIET UNION AND WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES WILL TACKLE "THE GRANDIOSE TASK OF TRANSFORMING THE DRV INTO A POWERFUL, FLOURISHING, SOCIALIST COUNTRY." THE CULMINATION OF THE IZVESTIA ARTICLE ENTITLED, "FAVORABLE POSSIBILITIES" HAILS PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE AS THE BASIC SOVIET POLICY, AND ILLUSTRATES THE CONTINUING RIVALRY BETWEEN THE KREMLIN, WASHINGTON, AND PEKING. THE CURRENT KREMLIN MOOD MAINTAINS THE SOVIET UNION'S DETERMINATION TO RETAIN THE LEADERSHIP OF NATIONAL-LIBERATION MOVEMENTS.

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WASHINGTON-HANOI COMMUNIQUE -- CONGRESSIONAL REACTION: SENATOR MANSFIELD SAID HE FEELS THE U.S. HAS A MORAL OBLIGATION TO HELP REBUILD INDOCHINA; HOWEVER, SENATOR BYRD OF WEST VIRGINIA SAID HE IS PERSONALLY OPPOSED TO ANY U.S. AID. BYRD ADDED THAT

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-4-

BETWEEN THE TWO, CERTAINLY IN ANY FORMAL SENSE, AND CERTAINLY IN ANY DISCUSSIONS WE ARE GOING TO HAVE WITH OUR ALLIES."

- THE U.S. HAS NO PLANS AT THIS TIME TO REDUCE ITS FORCES ON TAIWAN BECAUSE IT IS TOO EARLY YET TO FULFILL THAT PORTION OF THE AGREEMENT MADE WITH COMMUNIST CHINA.
- THE U.S. HAS NO PRESENT PLANS TO SEEK TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS WITH CUBA BECAUSE IT SEES NO CHANGE IN CASTRO'S GENERALLY HOSTILE ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE U.S. THE ANTI-HIJACKING AGREEMENT IS VERY WELCOME BUT IT IS POSSIBLE ONLY BECAUSE CUBA, ITSELF, WAS GETTING INCREASINGLY TIRED OF TRYING TO DEAL WITH THIS PROBLEM.

THE EVENING STAR AND WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS: HENRY BRADSHAW REPORTS YOUR ARRIVAL IN PEKING FOR FOUR DAYS OF TALKS WITH CHINESE LEADERS. AS A RESULT OF THE VIETNAM CEASE-FIRE OBSERVERS IN HONG KONG SEE POSSIBLE CLOSER RELATIONS BETWEEN PEKING AND WASHINGTON. WASHINGTON, REPORTEDLY IS EAGER TO OBTAIN CHINESE PERMISSION FOR A QUASI-DIPLOMATIC U.S. PRESENCE IN PEKING UNDER THE GUISE OF A TRADE MISSION. THE NEW CHINA NEWS AGENCY REPORTED YOU WERE MET BY FOREIGN MINISTER CHI PENG-FEI AND HIS FIRST DEPUTY. YOU WERE EXPECTED TO SEE PREMIER CHOU EN-LAI LATER. (A 1)

DAN THOMASSON REPORTS AN ELECTRONIC "BUG" FOUND IN THE HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MAIN HEARING ROOM IN AN APPARENT EFFORT TO EAVESDROP ON UPCOMING SECRET BRIEFINGS BY STATE AND DEFENSE OFFICIALS. THE BUG WAS DISCOVERED BY A CLEANING CREW AND REPORTED TO STATE AND THE FBI. (A 1)

WRITING FROM VIENTIANE, TAMMY ARBUCKLE SEES MAJOR OBSTACLES TO A CEASE-FIRE PACT IN LAOS. SOME OBSTACLES INVOLVE A LAOS GOVERNMENT AGREEMENT TO FORM A "POLITICAL COMMITTEE" AFTER A POST-WAR GOVERNMENT IS FORMED AS OPPOSED TO A PROPOSED PATHET LAO "POLITICAL COUNCIL" BEFORE THE FORMATION OF SUCH A GOVERNMENT. THERE IS ALSO DISAGREEMENT OVER THE NAMES OF THE SIGNATORIES OF AN LAO AGREEMENT; HOWEVER, THE MOST IMPORTANT DIFFERENCE IS THAT PREMIER PHOUMA SAYS HE IS THE LEADER OF THE LAO NEUTRALIST, BUT THE PATHET LAO REFUSE TO RECOGNIZE HIM AS SUCH. (A 6)

THE NINE MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN COMMON MARKET SAID TODAY THAT PRESIDENT NIXON'S DECISION TO DEVALUE THE DOLLAR WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO RESOLVING WORLD BALANCE OF PAYMENTS PROBLEMS. PUT

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THEY SAID HIS ACTION WOULD NOT STOP THEM FROM GOING AHEAD WITH WORK ON A WORLDWIDE MONETARY OVERHAUL. (A 7)

THE U.S. BALANCE OF PAYMENTS IMPROVED IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1972 AND FOR THE YEAR AS A WHOLE, BUT THE DEFICIT STILL WAS HUGE BY HISTORIC STANDARDS -- WHICH HELPS EXPLAIN WHY THE PRESIDENT WAS FORCED TO DEVALUE THE DOLLAR. (A 7)

GEORGE SHERMAN NOTES THAT DESPITE THE NEW ECONOMIC COMMISSION SET UP IN HANOI, THE ADMINISTRATION CONTINUES A CAUTIOUS PUBLIC LINE IN WHAT POST-WAR AID -- IF ANY -- WILL GO TO HANOI. BOTH THE WHITE HOUSE AND STATE IMMEDIATELY PLAYED DOWN THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE JOINT ECONOMIC COMMISSION. ZIELGER SAID THE COMMISSION MIGHT BE A STEP TOWARD NORMAL TIES WITH THE ERSTWHILE ENEMY, BUT DENIED VIGOROUSLY THAT IT WOULD EITHER ESTABLISH AN AID FIGURE OR ADMINISTER ITS APPLICATION. HE SAID THE COMMISSION IS TO BE A "FORUM" FOR DISCUSSING THE NEEDS OF RECONSTRUCTION OF NORTH VIETNAM. STATE OFFICIALS SAID MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION WILL UNDOUBTLY BE "EXPERTS" FROM THE AID PROGRAM, AND THAT THE COMMISSION IS LITTLE DIFFERENT FROM THE "SURVEY BODY" THE U.S. GOVERNMENT USUALLY CHARGES WITH A PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT OF ANY POTENTIAL AID RECIPIENT. (A 20)

FROM LONDON, DIPLOMATIC REPORTS -- COINCIDING WITH YOUR PEKING VISIT -- SAID THE SINO-SOVIET CONFLICT IS SPEEDING CHINA'S MOVEMENT TOWARD THE WEST BEYOND EXPECTATIONS. IN THIS REGARD, THE BRITISH FOREIGN OFFICE ANNOUNCED THAT CHINA IS SEEKING TO ACQUIRE BRITISH FIGHTER PLANES IN A MOVE SIGNIFYING PEKING'S INTENTION TO GET AWAY FROM DEPENDENCE ON SOVIET WEAPONS. (A 20)

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